

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



GRAY DAVIS
Governor

July 18, 2003

Dear Applicant:

This letter is to advise you that regrettably we will have to postpone the August 16, 2003 water distribution operator certification examination. Because of the difficulties being encountered with the state budget deficit and the lack of an approved state budget for the 2003/2004 fiscal year, the resources necessary for conducting the examination are in short supply. In addition, there are substantially more persons who have qualified to take the August 16 water distribution operator certification examination than in prior years. Rather than continue to move forward with the examination, we believe it is more prudent to postpone the examination until after the budget is signed.

Before making the decision to postpone the examination, we considered several potential options, as we realized that many of you have put in time and effort to prepare for the examination. In addition, for some of you, successfully passing this examination will enable you to obtain employment in the water industry or to receive a promotion. Although we wished to avoid the impacts on you that may result from not holding the examination in August, unfortunately we determined that our only viable option was to postpone the examination.

We plan to make arrangements to give the next water distribution operator certification examination as soon as possible after the state budget is signed. With regard to the examination fee that you have already submitted, we offer you two options:

1. Fee will be applied towards the next water distribution operation certification examination, or
2. You may request a refund of the examination fee.

If you want a refund, then please submit a request in writing to Drinking Water Program, Certification Unit, 601 North 7th Street, P.O. Box 942732, MS#92, Sacramento, CA 94234-7320.



Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:
www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

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We have enclosed answers to questions that we believe you have or you may check our website at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/technical/certification/opcert.html> . If you have additional questions, then call (916) 327-1139.

Sincerely,

David P. Spath, Ph.D., P.E., Chief
Division of Drinking Water
and Environmental Management

Enclosure

FAQ's Exam Delay

What will happen to my exam fee?

Your exam fee will be applied to the rescheduled exam unless you request a refund in writing. If you receive a refund you will no longer be eligible to take the rescheduled exam.

When will the exam be rescheduled?

The department is expecting to reschedule the exam later this year. At this time no date is available. Operators who were approved for the exam will be notified as soon as a new date has been set.

What if I am unable to attend the rescheduled exam?

You can request to take the following exam in April 2004.

How will this affect interim and temporary certification?

The exam delay will not affect the status of your interim or temporary certification. Interim and temporary certifications expire at the end of this year. If you only hold a temporary certification and were approved to take the August exam you should plan on attending the rescheduled exam. If you only hold an interim certification your water system should apply to renew your certificate between July 1st and September 1st of this year.

Will the application deadline be extended because of the delay?

No new applications will be accepted for this exam.

I only have a temporary distribution certificate that expires on January 1st, 2004. If the exam is not given this year I will not be able to become fully certified. Can I continue to operate the distribution system after the expiration date?

Yes. The DHS field office staff is aware of the current situation regarding the latest distribution exam and the temporary certification expiration date. The Department will not be issuing citations for expired temporary certificates due to the delay in the examination process. We do expect the August distribution exam to be rescheduled before the end of the year.

Where can I get more information?

Information regarding the new exam date will be posted on our website when available.

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/technical/certification/opcert.html>